



Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Feb. 2-6 is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week**

**Note: A sound bite on this topic will be available shortly at: <http://www.ago.ne.gov>**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that this week (Feb. 2-6) is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

According to Teenage Research Unlimited, one in five 13 to 14-year-olds know friends who have been struck by a boyfriend or girlfriend, and nearly half of teen girls in relationships say they've been victims of verbal, sexual or physical assault.

Nebraska-specific data shows that more than 10 percent of high school girls have experienced dating violence in the last 12 months, and more than 12 percent of high school females report having been forced to have sex. Unfortunately, both of these numbers are slightly higher than the national average.

"Many kids don't know the warning signs of a bad relationship and won't share concerns with their parents," said Bruning. "Teaching students about dating violence will help stop an abusive relationship before it starts."

The Attorney General's Office included the Lindsay Ann Burke Act, sponsored by Sen. Gwen Howard, in its legislative package. The Act was first adopted by Rhode Island in 2007. It requires public schools to incorporate dating violence education for students.

Breaking the cycle early can protect Nebraska's children and prevent abuse.

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